ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A front light includes: a light source 102, a light guide plate 101, and a plurality of prism-shaped lenses 106 each being in contact with a lower surface of the light guide plate 101. A cross-section of each of the prism-shaped lenses, in a plane perpendicular to the side surfaces thereof, has a shape of equally-sided trapezoid. An obtuse angle ϕ_{out} of the equally-sided trapezoidal cross-section and a critical angle θ_c for the total reflection of the prism-shaped lenses satisfy the relationship of $90° < \phi_{out} \leq 90° + \theta_c$. When the light emitted from the light source 102 enters the prism-shaped lens 106, the light is allowed to be reflected at a side surface defined by side-edges of the trapezoidal cross-section and thereafter exit through a lower surface 106b. Thus, the light can illuminate pixel electrodes in a liquid crystal panel from a direction normal thereto. Thus, light utilization efficiency of the front light can be improved.